

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 7, 16 and 19 and add the following new claims:

21. (New) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising,
in this order:

a substrate comprising Li;

a sealing layer comprising NiNb; and

a magnetic layer,

wherein the sealing layer has a thickness of about 450Å or less and substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate.

22. (New) A method of manufacturing a longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium, the method comprising:

sputter depositing a sealing layer comprising NiNb on a substrate comprising Li; and

sputter depositing a magnetic layer on the sealing layer;

wherein the sealing layer has a thickness of about 450Å or less and substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate.

23. (New) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising,
in this order:

a substrate comprising Li;

a sealing means having a thickness of about 450Å or less for substantially preventing migration of Li from the substrate; and
a magnetic layer.